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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Attached hereto is a transcription of a monitored conversation between Lucia De Vernai, Brian Grehoski, and Mervil C. Mason.

Investigation on 01/12/2012 at Phoenix, AZ

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by SA Mervil C. Mason:mcm *MCM*

Interview of Lucia De Vernai on January 12, 2012

Participants

Lucia DeVernai
SA Brian Grehoski
SA Merv Mason

Abbreviations

IA	Inaudible
UI	Unintelligible

Reviewed by Mark Stribling *MS*

Mason: Special Agent Merv Mason with the Phoenix FBI, I'm here with um, special agent Brian Grehoski with the FBI and um, Lucia DeVernai from the AG's office and it is approximately....

Grehoski: January 12th

Mason: Yeah, January 12th it's approximately 12:23 pm, um, and I'm just gonna ask you Lucia, this is a voluntary interview, you consenting to us recording this?

DeVernai: I will.

Mason: Okay. Um, and that's it.

DeVernai: Yes, yeah.

Grehoski: and was that his campaign headquarters, I think it was 7th ave. and Thomas?

DeVernai: uh-huh.

Grehoski: Okay.

DeVernai: that is now Five Guys.

Grehoski: Yeah, that did a nice job renovating that building, it looks nice. Um, okay, so and did you meet Tom the first time you were there? Was he there?

DeVernai: I want to say, he came in a little bit later than the rest of us, and Carmen introduced us.

Grehoski: Okay.

DeVernai: um, and um, we shook hands, and introduced myself, so...

Grehoski: Okay. And here comes our lunch so we're going to pause.

Waitress: Okay perfect Smokey Joe?

Grehoski: Smokey Joe right here

Waitress: Ok thank you very much and I have (IA)

Devernai: Thank you

Mason: Thank you very much

Devernai: Thank you

Waitress: Thank you (IA)

Grehoski: Okay, uh, so Carmon was there, who else was present that you can recall.

DeVernai: I remember, meeting um, Michael Vargas...

Grehoski: Okay, Michael Vargas...

DeVernai: Who was the campaign manager, um, Wendy Miller was there, um, Mia Makal, uh...

Mason: who was that last one?

DeVernai: Mak... M-a-k-a-l. um, a lot of people from, what became apparent was, um, the Department of Education.

Grehoski: Department of Education people?

DeVernai: uh-um.

Grehoski: Yeah, that's it. Um, as we mentioned, before we got started we're interested in campaign information um, you were involved with Tom Horne's campaign for Attorney General?

DeVernai: That's correct.

Grehoski: Okay, how did you get involved with that?

DeVernai: Uh, I met Carmen uh, as a neighbor um, and she started talking to me about you know, I'm a political science degree and so forth, we started talking about Tom and um, I have personal political reasons why I, uh, I sought interest, um for Tom to, to make it past the primary, um, and I decided to join the campaign.

Grehoski: When did you meet Carmen? As a neighbor?

DeVernai: I want to say, it was, May of 2010.

Grehoski: Okay, so May of 2010 and you guys just... entered into a conversation about politics?

DeVernai: Yeah, we ah, we, we were literally in the you know, in the staircase, you know she was asking, what do you study and so for, what are you interested in and um, I kind of told her that you know we have interests in...

Grehoski: Okay, and she had already established a relationship with Tom's campaign?

DeVernai: From what she stated, yes she did.

Grehoski: Okay, and she asked you if you'd be interested in getting involved?

DeVernai: Yeah, she did, um, I mean it was not, no pressure thing she said, you know, come by if you'd ever like to meet Tom and I said, yeah, I'd really like do that I'd like to meet him in person, kind of see what you guys are about and um I was clear about my party affiliation uh, which is democratic, and they were very welcoming to me um and open, and uh, and so I pursued that, so...

Grehoski: Ok, and that was in May of 2010.

DeVernai: 10, Yes.

Grehoski: When did you first go to the campaign headquarters, I assume you went to campaign headquarters?

DeVernai: Yes, um which is about a block from where me and Carmon live and, I went, it was the summer of, it was either May or June of that year, I don't have the exact date.

Grehoski: So it was shortly thereafter...

Grehoski: And Carmon came from the Department of Education with him? She was there as well, right? Prior to?

DeVernai: Uh-um.

Grehoski: Okay, uh, anybody else you can recall there that first time?

DeVernai: uh, I want to say Vanessa Deathrage was there, she's now Tom's uh personal secretary, um, trying to think who else, of that day when I met them, the room was full, I believe Margaret Dugan came in later, I didn't know who she was yet, so, you know just people coming in and out...

Grehoski: Okay. I'll try to give you time to eat in between questions.

DeVernai: (UI)

Grehoski: And you were introduced to everybody, and at what point did you officially become involved with the campaign?

DeVernai: um, you know I, uh, you know, Carmon asked me if I wanted to stay and help out, and I said, you know that I, that I would, what can I do, and I believe, that day, a lot of people went back to work, I was a full time graduate student at the time, um, I believe I did some

envelope stickies or something like that, uh, just kind of you know office work, and that was the, I wasn't there as often and many other people were, I wasn't as involved.

Grehoski: Okay.

DeVernai; ...um, with that, yeah.

Grehoski: and how frequently did you go down and help out?

DeVernai: um, once or twice a week.

Grehoski: Once or twice a week?

DeVernai: I went to meetings, uh, I did have things going on with ASU and I worked part time at a, at a company, my schedule would overlap into the meetings. There were a lot of occasions where I had to work, so, because I couldn't make it.

Mason: Were you there at any of the Tuesday meetings? Is that what?

Grehoski: that, that's where I'm going.

Mason: okay.

Grehoski: Did you have a question before that?

Mason: No,no,no, no. That's where I was gonna start, go ahead.

Grehoski: So a couple of times a week, and how long would you stay, and you know, round about hour, 2 hours, 3 hours?

DeVernai: I would say an hour and a half tops, yeah, um, ...

Grehoski: And again same type of work, stuffing envelopes, mailings, ...

DeVernai: um, there was a big, um, there was a big push to do calls, phone banks, um since my, my job was talking to people on the phone, I worked for a, a Uhaul, um, basically all day booking people over the phone, it's not something I really wanted to do, I was always open to you know, to, you know fold phamplets, edit them or you know do signs, or whatever else, um, but it seemed that the you know, they wanted me for the most part was the phone banks, and that you know, it wasn't something I could either do or just after 8 hours of work....you know..

Grehoski: Sure, okay. And, at what point did you meet Kathleen Winn?

DeVernai: um, I want to say it was maybe a couple of weeks in, it wasn't the first meeting, and um,

I, one thing that I remember is that there was quite a bit of um, separate groups, and you could see that there were, you know, both friendships, non friendships going on there, and um, Kathleen had a few people that she was close with but that's about it.

Grehoski: So would you describe it as being somewhat cliquey?

DeVernai: Yeah.

Grehoski: Okay. So you met her, uh, if I could put the timeline together, right, then sometime May 2010 you first met....

DeVernai: I would say June..

Grehoski: May and June, okay, 2010 Kathleen was there and it was obvious to you that she was working on the campaign?

DeVernai: uh-hum. oh yeah, um...

Grehoski: and what types of work was she doing on the campaign that you observed?

DeVernai: um, one thing that I noticed is, she wasn't in the office very often. If you were to stop by and 8:00 at night, Carmon um, several of the people there would be there on the cell phones trying to call voters, um,

and she wasn't in the office, she did come to meetings, she was on a very friendly basis, she kept more to, I don't want just to base important people, but she didn't have time to make conversation with people like me.

Grehoski: okay.

DeVernai: it would be people who you know like, campaign management, um,...

Mason: Decision makers...

DeVernai: Decision makers, right, and you know and that was fine, a lot of what I did, you know is just kind of observe what is going on you know, I felt like an outsider not necessarily because they made me feel unwelcome but because I was coming from a political background and...

Grehoski: And at that point did you have some sort of stature in other words, where you considered one of the decision makers high up or were you...

DeVernai: Absolutely not. You know, um, um, I, I think that at that point I was more Carmon's friend, and I participated, but the campaign, and I think what has to be clear here is that these people spend 40 hours a week

together, um, and then they did this, and it was very much, this is the Department of Education people, and if you weren't part of that, um, you weren't part of that. And so, um, you know, I didn't know what they did whether it's to flex lunch or what they did, I mean people were always there from the Department of Ed, you could count those of us who weren't working there on one hand.

Grehoski: Okay. And at some point did you become someone of stature or someone that I mean, what prompted you to eventually start attending Tuesday meetings?

DeVernai: I, I think what was really important to me personally is you know, for Tom to do well, of course to get out of the primary...

Grehoski: um hmm

DeVernai: um and then for personal political reasons, to contribute to um, to him winning the general election, um, I at that time was trying to find work, uh, within, you know, my area of education and so it wasn't necessarily a priority, I didn't go you know some weeks I couldn't make it there, some weeks I could to stay for 45 minutes, because I um, you know, what I wanted to help out it couldn't become the, the

essential point of my life the way it was for a lot of other people there, so.

Mason: Well was the um, the Tuesday meetings, was it a regular standing staff meeting for everybody?

DeVernai: Yes. Um, Tom made it as often as he could, but he was always in a meeting and when I could I would go to it, um,...

Mason: I mean all levels were invited?

DeVernai: uh-huh, it wasn't just leadership; it was people who put up signs, made phone calls and so forth. Yeah.

Mason: and, where was it held, what was the time?

DeVernai: I want to say it was around noon, 11, 12, 1, um, in the headquarters, always at the headquarters there.

Mason: Okay, every week?

DeVernai: uh-huh.

Mason: Generally did, um, most of the staff attend um, was it kind of hit and miss some there, some not...

DeVernai: How do you mean? Yeah, I mean there was always a good turnout. There were definitely people there um, like I said, some weeks more than others.

Mason: Who ran the meetings?

DeVernai: Usually Michael Vargas was the campaign manager. Um, it was you know, there was a little bit of push and pull, um, in terms of who has the authority, um, but yeah, he was always, always there.

Grehoski: Did Kathleen attend those meetings?

DeVernai: A lot of them, yes. When, um, I, I remember clearly her uh, also coming one of the evenings or afternoons...

Grehoski: um hmm

DeVernai: said there was some envelope stuffing when I was done work, you know, I'd come by or you know, if I didn't' make phone calls then I would you know check the list for people who were going to make phone calls and so she would show up then and, um had a good relationships with people and she wasn't as stranger, you know, people always greeted her, she had established some key relationships there, people who you know, uh, you know one woman who was about my age

called her Mom, like people she would spend time with outside as well, so you know, I wasn't one of them, but I could definitely see that she part of the...

Mason: Part of the core group?

DeVernai: Part of the effort, yeah.

Grehoski: Do you know how she was introduced to Horne's campaign, what her relationship to Horne is, is she a real estate broker, or mortgage person that worked with Tom's personal properties and do you know how that relationship came to be?

DeVernai: No, I understand, and I heard this, you know second hand, um, from people who have been working with, or for Tom for years, she kind of showed up, um, after the efforts to have Tom run, have already began, so you know, months and months in advance,

Grehoski: Um hm

Devernai: um, and to come and I heard is that you know, she kind of shows up, um out of nowhere, and you have to understand, a lot of people are very, um protective and proprietary of Tom, like who are you coming in as an outsider. Um, and I think that's, you know, because of the strong

relationships they have from the past, and um, but, she uh, I think it got to the point where, she has a large personality and there was some head butting, um, she had some strong ideas about how Tom should and shouldn't do things, she was trying to coach him to you know, in debates, how to (UI) debates, uh, and a lot of people didn't like that. Thinking, you know, what, don't step on our toes, this is what we do. Um, so um, from what I understand, Carmen told me that she suggested that Kathleen do something on the, not in Maricopa county, just kind of out there. Um, I think there was some personal competition between the two women, um, some personal dislike um, and yeah, so she wasn't in the office, she would come in, you know, and you know, get a homecoming, it wasn't, I have to stress the fact that it was, she was one of us. You know, and she was doing a lot of good a and uh, showing off her bumper stickers, I mean, let me put it this way, if you wandering about the extent of her relationship with that campaign, check out the Tom Horne bumper sticker on her mustang, and the car prior to that, that's...

Mason: It seems, not questioning you, but it just seems, this woman comes up out of nowhere, she's got a strong personality, and she

seems to have gotten quite a bit of clout in an organization that was fairly cliquish

DeVernai: um-hum

Mason: uh, and kind of rose to the top, per say, I mean...does that sound like a....

DeVernai: I came in kind of mid-way there, so it's kind of hard for me to say what happened before that....

Mason: okay, understood, fair enough

DeVernai: cause from what I've heard, um, she like I said, she has a big personality, she knows a lot of very powerful people because of uh, a community, and you know, political party involvement because of her husband's job and so she's uh, she can, she was basically offering things that the rest of us...

Mason: Could not...

DeVernai: could not...

Mason: right...

DeVernai: Because the, all respected people they who were there from the department of education they weren't going to go to fund raisers.

And I mean she, she brought something that was kind of missing internally. 'cause when you go out, when you go out to you fund raisers, you ask people for money, they're not part of you, you know?

Mason: Right.

DeVernai: ...they, it was kind of an internal person who could give us what nobody else in the room really could.

Mason: So, unless I'm jumping ahead, how did it come about that she was put in charge of um, the independent expenditure...

Grehoski: Well let's, let's establish....

Mason: oh yeah, right, right.

Grehoski: At some point, well, two things, during these staff meetings was it ever discussed about um, the topic of money advertisements that were in opposition to Tom's competition for that office?

DeVernai: Yes.

Grehoski: okay, and...

DeVernai: I remember it clearly, because I remember being uncomfortable about it. Um...

Mason: Tell us about that fi...first time you hear that.

DeVernai: I'm sorry?

Mason: Tell us about the first time you heard about it.

DeVernai: My largest conflict started really with when it came to uh, Miss Rotellini, you know with Andy Thomas... you know I slept at night, but, um, there, there was a lot of, um, there was a lot of talk, uh, people were displeased that Grant Woods had given Felicia a, a...

Mason: Endorsement?

DeVernai: an endorsement. And it came out that I am friends with his son. And so there were some comments made and you know, they weren't professional in nature, and I um, I just remember it being a lot about you know, trying to senior Felicia. You know, and, um, I, I don't know, I mean I wasn't present for the conversation where, you know it was decided who's going to Kathleen, but I don't remember clearly that she was in, in charge of that I think because of her uh, much publicized back ground in producing videos and so forth. So...

Grehoski: And when did this begin? Was it before the primary?

DeVernai: No. September

Grehoski: September:

DeVernai: um-hum. I mean, we, we squeezed out of the primary. It was one of those, like, you know 500 vote things, um, after that, the game kind of changed and it wasn't about being the best Republican, it was about Felicia. Really so...

Grehoski: Okay. So prior to September, there really wasn't any talk about the need to uh, run smear ads against Felicia.

DeVernai: No, I think that the focus was so on Thomas, as it should have been, really. Um, ...

Mason: Strategically.

DeVernai: Strategically, but I heard nothing, again maybe there was, I heard nothing.

Grehoski: Okay. So September comes around, Tom wins against Andy in the primary and now it's, who are we facing in the general and at that point, there's only two candidates. There's Felicia Rotellini and Tom Horne. Were there

any independents or third party write-ins?
Or anything like that you can recall? I, I,
I don't remember.

DeVernai: In terms of a conversation, yeah, it was the
two of them,

Grehoski: Okay

DeVenai: um, and that was what the conversation was
about.

Grehoski: Okay. And so the need then became, we've
got to do something to help Tom by putting
out ads opposing Felicia.

DeVernai: uh, the effort was kind of I want to say,
split. The rest of us were doing the grunt
work. And that includes people who were
very high up the chain including Carmen. Who
spent thousands of dollars on their cell
phone bill calling people. Um, you know
putting up signs, getting out pamphlets,
bumper stickers, all that. Um, Kathleen
would stop by you know, uh, and I remember
these things because, um, the room kind of
stops. And it's about her, and she's
talking about her endeavors and she's not um,
a particular humble person when it comes to
that.

Grehoski: um hmm

DeVernai: And so, she was sharing a lot of you know, what she's doing and where she's going. She drove around the states a lot, um, but, there would first be talk around the table, you know, we should run ads. We should do things, what do you guys thing about that. There was some talk about radio ads, where I remember, you know, a conversation about what we were... you know sound best and all lot of it was democrats. Um, and then it kind of stopped. Like, it wasn't a democratic thing you know, where all of us are around the table

Grehoski: Um hmm

Devernai: who would hear her talk about it, um, Kathleen was handling it. And, I remember, you know, her talking um, about doing you know, the independent thing, and I honestly didn't know what the independent thing means any, maybe I'm an idiot, but I, you know, I, I knew about it, I just didn't know it was necessarily something wrong. Um, it wasn't, I wasn't a hush hush thing, and I think that is what kind of threw me off, originally, thinking that, will, if they're talking about it, it's gotta be fine.

Grehoski: Um hmm

Devernai: You know, I mean, we've got all the smartest guys in the room here right, how many lawyers are in. I don't know. Um, but it was definitely, you know, talked about that it was going to focus on Felicia and unions, uh, the unions were a big big thing. That and her support of the President. Um, but that would be you know, I think it was going to produce that or something and you know, but it was a separate thing, the rest of us were going to keep folding and making phone calls and putting up signs, um, so again, she would stop by, talk to Tom, you know kind of in the corner, I wasn't a part of the conversation, 15-20 minutes, and um, ...

Grehoski: And this is going on all during September or October...

DeVernai: uh-huh. I would say it really intensified October.

Grehoski: Ok

DeVernai: Um, like, um, when Marney Thompson came out, I think, kind of came around a lot more, um, it was the battle of the blondes for Tom's attention, and I think Kathleen really wanted to showcase the fact that she was doing so much for him politically. So it would be, you know when you hear their

conversation, I mean, who can you know Marney, her family has connections or whatever, it was kind of humorous to watch to, and all the women were like, I know so and so will I can get you and I'm like ok ,I'm going to keep sticking things in envelopes.

Grehoski: So it was similarly time period, September, the primaries over, you start about, alright we got to start... we gotta go after Felicia, and then +in October, it really intensified with um, Kathleen coming to headquarters and talking to Tom in the corner.

DeVernai: Um, I want to say that even the couple of weeks before the actual election like, it was all out, it was like, push, push, push. Um, get those ads on then run them, run them, run them, run them, we need to be on TV, it has to be very very visible. But I'm talking like two or three weeks before. So the conversation was there and planning and all that but you know, and I'm sure these things cost a lot and so there was a big push for putting whatever money there was um toward the ads. The TV ads.

Grehoski: And was there talk about taking money from Tom's campaign and putting it into the different anti-Rotellini ads? Or was there some segregation there between the two?

DeVernai: That's not something I could really answer those weren't conversations that would happen um around me.

Grehoski: Okay. Fair enough.

Mason: But at the Tuesday meeting, you remember hearing Kathleen talk about the independent expenditure.

DeVernai: Well, we didn't call it independent expenditure. You know, um, it was, you know the TV ads, I mean she did a lot of what she does now at the office. Use her connections and her experience to put Tom on TV. And plugging him in anywhere you know on talk shows or whatever else. It was called you know the independent thing, but the Felicia campaign, the Felicia you know, um ads, at first there were some I mean, we, I remember us having money problems. You know talking about how much would radio ads cost. When, there was definitely talk of that and you know the reason why we had to do so many phone banks is to get um money. You know, um....

Mason: Well, I just want to make sure that sometimes when, like you learn stuff later from a different source, you kind of overlay it on what your recollection....

DeVernai: I think that's...

Mason: So in other words was there any discussion about, hey Kathleen go set up this thing....

DeVernai: Not around me. Um, the conversations were about the Felicia ads and how often we have to run them and it's very often and we have to find the money for that and, I remember being kind of confused because, I remember there being a lot of talk about how, you know, we need to start calling, you know the Trial Lawyers Association you know, we need 300 dollar donations, uh, that we don't, you know radios ads can be really pricy should we run them on both stations, um, I would imagine TV would be more expensive and just think; uh. Alright, they found the money, so, what do I know. Um, but, again, you know in retrospect, we're talking the independent expenditure it's not, that's not the conversations that was going on. When you put, you know the knowledge from the past with what you know now, I, okay, that's what we were talking about.

Mason: ...but did Kathleen ever talk about going off and doing this herself, or how do you know she was put in charge of that, did somebody at the meeting say, you it, or..

DeVernai: Well, I knew then that she was going, cause she would talk about it, so she's standing on the you know, across the table and talking to somebody, you over hear pieces you know and she was talking about she's going to do things especially when Marney was around you know, that, would, uh come out, um, but, recently, recent months, uh, I have heard from Carmen Chanal, that you know, that she, she said, she told Tom to have uh, Kathleen do this. Do the independent thing. And, I didn't, you know, I didn't question her about it, but that's, you know she basically couldn't deal with Kathleen in the office with her.

Mason: So Carmen told Tom, I can't deal with her in the office, can you put her on this...

DeVernai: ...put her on this and have her just you know, stop by once a week. Um, I am under the impression that Carmen didn't really understand what have her do the outside thing really meant. And I want to be clear on that. Because I think what Carmen was trying to do was just push her out and have her like, (UI) um, I don't think Carmen was masterminding some kind of...

Mason: Scheme.

DeVernai: Scheme. I think she's actually still confused about something.

Grehoski: okay. So it was Carmen's suggestion to get Kathleen out of there, to Tom and from what he could put together, Tom had Kathleen, or Kathleen went and did these ads and the ads weren't discussed at these meetings, at the campaign headquarters.

DeVernai; Yes. And, again, when, when we first started, the conversation, or I started the conversation with the two of you, uh, I was surprised,

Grehoski: Um hmm

DeVernai: because it was, I mean I didn't find some secret file, it was just talked about. You know, I wasn't in on the cool kids club, you know up the chain, this really was talked about. I really didn't think that there was anything wrong with it because of that.

Mason: But, if, but if you think about it, if you take out the knowledge that you have now, basically the campaign was just sitting around talking about running TV ads, which is legal, as long as you're raising the money in the appropriate fashion or spending your campaign money in the appropriate fashion. So it could have been, it just

been perceived as just business as usual?
Just you have this...

DeVernai: Given my knowledge now, absolutely. No one around that table thought that there was anything wrong going on.

Mason: So, what made you so uncomfortable?

DeVernai: Because the things I heard much later on.

Mason: Okay.

DeVernai: Much after the election, things I've heard from people who work on the campaign since then, um, I've described some of those instances with you where I have questioned um, you know certain decisions within the agency currently and it always keeps coming back to this.

Grehoski: Um hmm

DeVernai: You know she did too much good for Tom. No matter what she does, the Attorney General told me she will not be fired. Why? Will she helped me a lot, you know with getting, you know, getting the campaign off the ground and you know, she raised a lot of money for me. Will, what I hear from everybody else who was on the campaign is that, she didn't raise that much money for

you, so there's a disconnect. In my mind, and I keep hearing this from different people who were there. So..

Grehoski: So there's some people that have the perception she really didn't do a whole lot of raising for the pro-Tom campaign...

DeVernai: Right...

Grehoski: and whose same people are not likely aware of the anti-Felicia money. Is that a fair assessment?

DeVernai: this may be true, yes.

Grehoski: Ok.

Mason: Have you ever, you said that uh, you've heard people talk about Kathleen saying, we have the independent thing or we're gonna...

DeVernai: Yeah.

Mason: Have you ever heard her say that yourself? Can you describe that?

DeVernai: Yes, I have. Uh, while I was, uh, while she was my direct supervisor in the Attorney General's office for a good, almost 10 months, um, she, she has alluded to it. Um, the conversations started with, her

superiority to Carmen, um, and usefulness to Tom, and personal uh, matters and she, she said, you know much money, he wa..., I think what really set my mind going was, I won that, uh, I won that election for him. I raised so much money for him, you remember those ads? I produced them. And, I said, the Felicia ads? And, she said, yeah, you know the union ones? I'm the reason why he won. Without the, you know, two, three weeks, or whatever, you know, it was too close of a vote. Uh, so, again, maybe she's overstating her accomplishments, but, after she said that to me, things kind of fell into place.

Grehoski: And when did you... when did she say that? Do you recall? Was that multiple different occasions and saying it different fashions?

DeVernai: I, I know it happened, I know it's happened at least twice while we were in the office. Um, one would have been the summer, one would have been a lot earlier, maybe like February.

Grehoski: Okay, February of 11? Summer of 2011?

DeVernai: 11, uh-hm, yes.

Grehoski: Okay. Okay.

Mason: Have you heard anything, heard her say anything else similar to that, or Tom, that was implicating?

DeVernai: Uh, I think that, again, the, Tom saying, on multiple occasions to my face, that, no matter what happened, some things that happened were serious, at least in my mind, um, he would not fire her, because, uh, she's too useful to him and she's done too much for him, um,

Grehoski: umm hmm

DeVernai: and that's a pretty absolute statement that you will not fire somebody. Um, no matter what. So...

Mason: Ok

Grehoski: Okay, and then, along those lines, there was the New Times article that came out in July 2011, and then a follow up one in...

DeVernai: September, sometime...

Grehoski: September time frame, and if you could, just tell us what you know about that. It's um...

DeVernai: Um, I have recently learned that, uh, there have been months of, uh, there have months been months of interviews of Tom pulling me

into his office, and you know, um, how do I say this, telling me that it would be most useful to me and my best interest to tell them whatever I know, and I told him what I think, I gave him my, you know, my opinion, um, but there were a lot of people interviewed for this to find out who was an inside job and this was pretty serious, uh, in the recent weeks, I have learned um, that both Tom Horne and Rick Bistro have spoken with Carmen who was the subject of these articles that, Kathleen was involved, and gave information to the New Times that appeared in that article. Carmen, seemed both angry and lost as to, you know, we spent so much time and resources trying to find the culprit, why isn't this person being punished, because, if it were anybody else, they would be...

Grehoski: Um hum

DeVernai: So I um uh what Carmen said is that Rick Bistro told her that, you know, if this woman were let go, or demoted, that, um, she could tell a lot of bad lies about Tom. And, I don't know what kind of lies those are,

Grehoski: Um hmm

DeVernai: but, it's almost like they're afraid, of her. Like, so, uh, so, yeah, but...

Grehoski: Okay. Does that cover it for now? I know you said uh, you've got the, some time constraints, do you need to uh, need to get going?

DeVernai: Depends on what time it is.

Grehoski: It's, uh, 1:00.

DeVernai: Okay, I need to go.

Grehoski: Okay, well that concludes it for today, it's about 1:00 and we are going off tape.